

ILLEGIB

TOP SECRET

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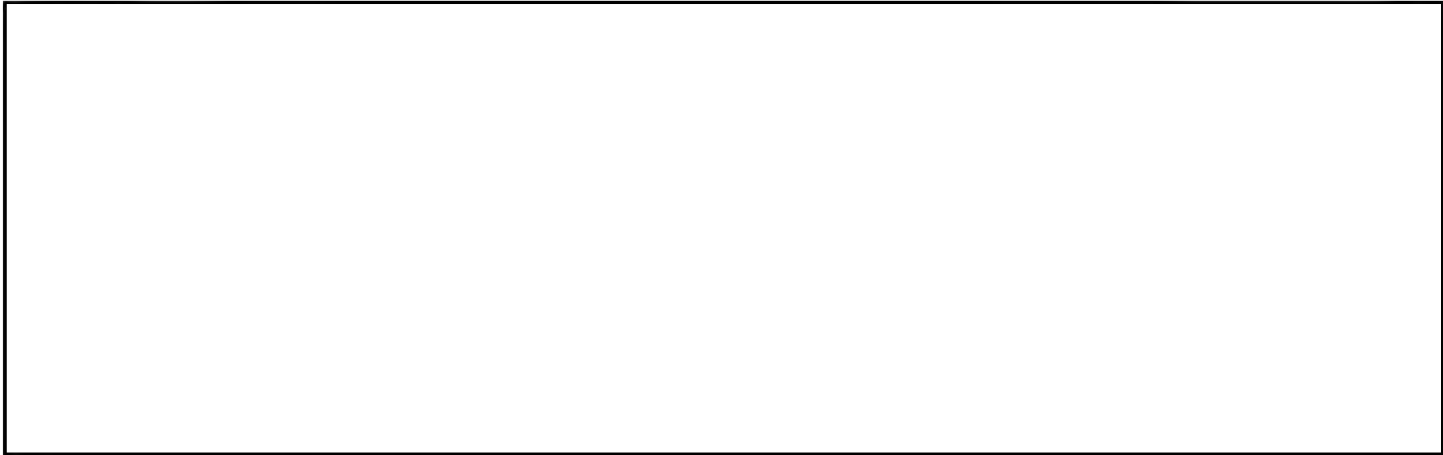
Office of Current Intelligence

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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State Department review completed

TOP SECRET

**NEAR EAST**

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LATIN AMERICA

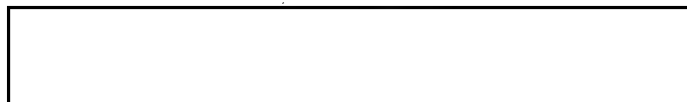
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NEAR EAST

4. Communists trying to reorganize and expand activities in Greece: (R22009)

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Observers attached to the United Nations Sub-Committee on the Balkans have informed the US Ambassador in Athens that Greek guerrillas, especially trained in

Czechoslovakia and Hungary, are arriving in northern Greece in greater numbers than they have in the past. They reportedly intend to reorganize sympathizers, spread propaganda and obtain information. They also are attempting to re-establish an Agrarian Party as a Communist front organization. While these bands are well armed, they apparently have instructions to avoid contact with the police and to employ arms only when absolutely necessary. Greek military authorities do not believe the guerrillas are planning to renew armed activity on a serious scale.



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WESTERN EUROPE (R220005)5. Netherlands will fulfill its defense program:

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The Netherlands Acting Commissioner of ECA-MDAP affairs orally informed ECA officials at The Hague that he is now authorized to commit the Netherlands Government to fulfilling its Medium Term Defense Program by April 1955 according to the NATO plan. The proposed annual military budget of 1500 million

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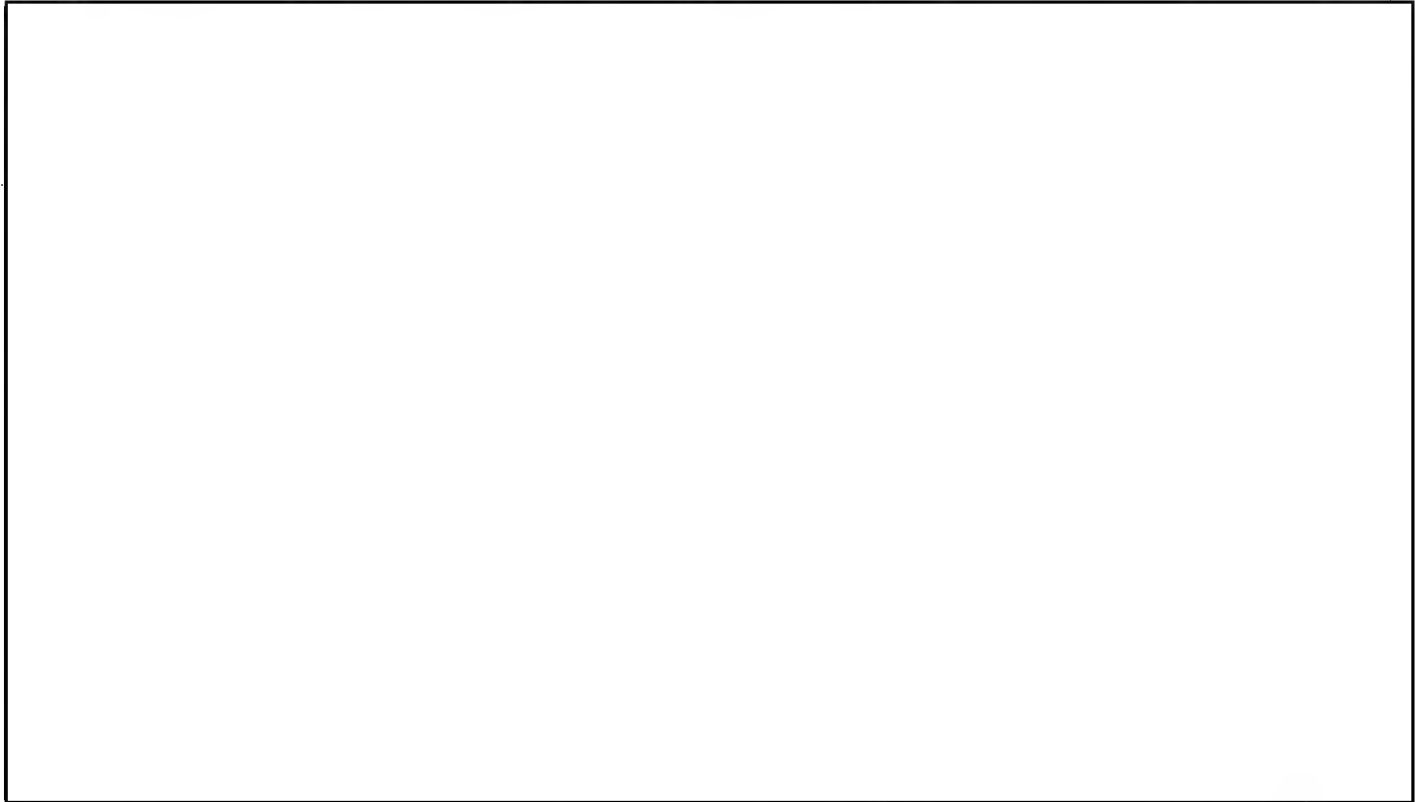
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guilders (\$390 million) will be undertaken and a five-division army by 1955 is assured, even though costs have risen since the program was drawn up in September 1950.

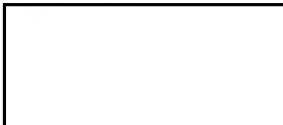
Comment: The defense program as outlined represents the probable maximum that is politically feasible for the Netherlands Government. So far, the five percent reduction in the standard of living has caused some unrest; however, though the increase in the costs of raw materials and the Netherlands' deteriorating balance of payments position will make it more difficult for the government to implement its defense program, the stability of the government probably will not be jeopardized.

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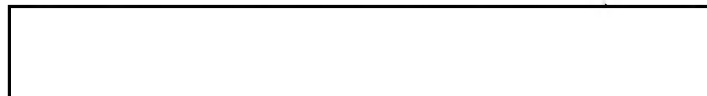
7. Police officials dismissed by Austrian authorities remain in office:

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The Austrian Minister of the Interior has informed US Minister Donnelly that the Soviet element has rejected the dismissals of approximately 60 police officials in its

Vienna sector. The government is reportedly intending to stop their pay after the legal period of notice has expired, but may not be able to



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prevent them from continuing to exercise their functions.

Comment: This situation is potentially dangerous because it could lead to a gradual weakening of Austrian administrative control in the eastern zone of Vienna. In addition, the government's failure to remove the above-mentioned police will probably weaken resistance to Soviet pressure on the part of non-Communist police in the Soviet zone.

The officials in question were part of the 267 administrative police recently dismissed by the government because of their pro-Communist tendencies.

LATIN AMERICA

8. Possible pre-election disturbances in Bolivia:

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The US Embassy in La Paz reports that Victor Paz Estenssoro, presidential candidate of the National Revolutionary Movement (an extreme rightist opposition party), is

returning to La Paz on 5 April against his own will because one faction of his party has demanded that he return or resign the party presidential nomination. It is expected that Paz will be greeted at the airport by 3,000 people, including factory workers and laborers "who have been told to carry what small arms are available." The police are expected to be present in force. The Embassy comments that the simplest formality on the part of the authorities might be misinterpreted by the crowd and cause disorders or riots -- which could spread.

Comment: National Revolutionary Movement leaders are suspicious that the government may have tricked Paz into returning in order to arrest him and to prevent his running in the 6 May elections. The party is convinced that it will win if honest elections are held. If it appears that Paz should be prevented from running, the party may again resort to revolutionary activity -- as it did unsuccessfully in 1949.

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